(b) the number of such farmers and the amount by which they still have outstanding loans, category-wise and State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The State-wise details of farmer beneficiaries (category-wise), including the total eligible Waiver/Relief amount under ADWDRS is at the Statement. [Refer to the Statement appended to the Answer to USQ 1612, Part (b)]

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha.

Implementation of the loan waiver scheme

1634. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the loan waiver scheme announced in Budget 2008 has been implemented in full;

(b) if so, the details of the beneficiaries benefited from the loan waiver schemes so far, State-wise;

(c) the details of loan amount that has been waived so far, State-wise: and

(d) the details of the amount that has been reimbursed to the banks/financial institutions so far by the Central Government on account of loan waiver?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The State-wise details of farmer beneficiaries, including the total eligible Waiver/Relief amount, under ADWDRS is at the Statement. [Refer to the Statement appended to the Answer to USQ 1612, Part (b)]

(d) The Government has already released Rs.25,000 crore to RBI (Rs.17,500 crore for Cooperative Banks and Regional Rural Banks and Rs.7,500 crore for Scheduled Commercial Banks, Urban Cooperative Banks and Local Area Banks). The balance reimbursable claims would be released in July 2009, July 2010 and the remaining balance, if any, in July 2011. The Government has also decided to pay interest on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th instalments of the reimbursable claims.

Interest rates of home loans charged by private banks

1635. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain private sector banks at present apply the increased rates of interest on home loans uniformly irrespective of the amounts of the advances involved whereas the public sector banks apply the increase rates only to those advances above a particular limit;

(b) if so, the details thereof, as on date;

(c) whether Government proposes to direct the private sector banks to adopt the same norms as that of the public sector banks;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) There is no evidence to indicate that unlike public sector banks, private sector banks apply the increased rates of interest uniformly irrespective of the amount of advances.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) No, Sir. The rates of interest of all Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) stand deregulated, with the exception of loans upto Rs.2 lakhs for which interest rate should not exceed the Benchmark Prime Lending Rate (BPLR). The banks, with the approval of their respective Boards, determine the BPLR taking into account the actual cost of funds, operating expenses, regulatory requirement of provisioning, etc.

Fall in value of rupee

†1636. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that large-scale selling of shares by Foreign Financial Institutions (FFI) in the Indian share market is the main reason for fall of rupee against dollar;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) the other reasons which are responsible for the fall of rupee against dollar to such a low level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The fall of rupee against the US dollar is mainly due to the strengthening of the US dollar against major currencies, higher net Foreign Institutional Investment (FII) outflows due to the global financial crisis and higher trade outflows due to higher crude oil prices and import demand.

(b) and (c) To alleviate the adverse impact of the turmoil in international financial markets on the domestic forex market, RBI has taken a number of measures beginning mid-September 2008. These, *include* the following:

- The Reserve Bank of India announced that it would continue to sell foreign exchange (US dollars) through agent banks to augment supply in the domestic foreign exchange market or intervene directly to meet any demand-supply gaps.
- The Reserve Bank of India announced that it would resume special market operations to meet the foreign exchange requirements of public sector oil marketing companies against oil bonds when they become available.
- The interest rate ceilings on FCNR (B) and NR(E)RA term deposits were increased in stages by a cumulative 175 basis points each.
- External commercial borrowings (ECBs) up to US$500 million per borrower per financial year were permitted for rupee expenditure and/or foreign currency expenditure for permissible end-uses under the automatic route.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi